

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE SEPTEMBER 5, 2006

CLEAN STREETS – LITTER AND RECYCLING IN PUBLIC AREAS

Recommendation

Councillor Shefman recommends:

1. That the City of Vaughan review its current policy regarding the placement of waste/trash containers in public places, such as parks, boulevards and walkways;
2. That a new policy be implemented that will rationalize responsibilities for the placement and maintenance of public waste/recycling containers;
3. That one focus of the review will be to provide these containers more widely according to an established criteria throughout the City;
4. That the emphasis of the new policy be on encouraging residents to utilize recycling containers rather than trash bins;
5. That the City develop this policy in consultation and co-operation with York Region Transit and the Regional Municipality of York who also provide various types of trash/recycling bins in the City of Vaughan;
6. That the updated policy be presented to Committee in January 2007 for Council's recommendation.

Economic Impact

Some staff time will be spent on reviewing current policies and developing an updated approach to this issue. There is a possibility of a variety of costs arising from the new policy, including purchase of new trash/recycling receptacles, maintenance of this new street furniture, including clearing the receptacles on a regular basis. Certain costs may be lowered by developing a more rationalized approach to this issue.

Background – Analysis and Options

Currently there are two City departments that share the responsibility for the maintenance of trash receptacles. There are few, if any recycling receptacles in public spaces provided by the City. It would seem the only recycling containers are at certain transit stops. Not focusing on providing recycling facilities in public spaces at a time when we are very rapidly moving in this direction under Greening Vaughan may be seen as contradictory. Furthermore, if one were to do an audit of litter on our streets, a significant amount of that litter exists as plastic water bottles and soft drink cans, both being recyclable. Studies have been conducted regarding the distance a person will walk before disposing of a piece of litter. Residents complain that there are either not enough public trash receptacles or that the receptacles that exist are not emptied on a frequent enough basis.

Purpose

To develop an efficient and effective system of trash/recycling receptacles placed in public areas in the City of Vaughan.

Relationship to Vaughan Vision

This report is consistent with the priorities previously set by Council relating to the quality of life and the environment in the City of Vaughan.

Conclusion

The City of Vaughan needs to develop a new approach to providing trash/recycling receptacles in public places that emphasizes recycling and encourage residents to stop littering.

Attachments

none

Report prepared by:

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Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Alan Shefman